

FROM THE EDITORS

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL, we are exhibiting a new format as well as many other new features that we hope will provide a better and more accessible *Rapa Nui Journal*. The size has been expanded so that we can now publish longer submissions complete in one issue.

Authors may submit manuscripts for consideration as articles, reports, comments or essays. The editors will evaluate manuscripts in consultation with peer referees, as appropriate. At the same time, we intend to continue with many of the familiar features to which RNJ readers have become accustomed. We welcome input and invite feedback and comments.

We have a very small staff and, as always, we welcome volunteers who are interested in doing a lot of hard work for no financial reimbursement.

In the fall of 2000 the EIF moved into a new office, located in the small village of Baywood (but we have the same mailing address as before); we have acquired new editors for the Journal as well as for our other publications.

Our major event of the past year was the Pacific 2000 Conference, held last August on Hawai'i Island. It was a great success. Not only did it bring together scholars from around the world, the papers presented were excellent. Dr Peter Bellwood was our keynote speaker and we are grateful to him for traveling so far and for providing a great start for the conference. As an indication of the popularity of the conference, the most-asked question was "Where is the next one going to be?" (See comments by Stevenson, below).

In this issue we are delighted to include a report from the field: Grant McCall's 'take' on the island after being away for some fifteen years. It is surely a shock to anyone who has been away for so long to see so many vehicles, paved roads, and other changes that range from supermarkets to computer stores. Those of us who worked on the island in the 1980s clearly recall the problems involved in finding a vehicle to rent, and particularly one that was in running condition and had tires. How times do change!

This issue also brings a provocative article by Paul Wallin and Helene Martinssen-Wallin about fishhooks and sacrifice. This talented couple has been working on research projects in various parts of Polynesia for many years and we are pleased to present their paper.

A different aspect emerges in the contribution by Riet Delsing, who provides an anthropological look at the concept of Polynesian sailing. Riet was among the few who were fortunate to be on Easter Island to welcome the arrival of the *Hōkūle'a*.

Ferren MacIntyre tackles the thorny problem of climatic change. His research is presented in two parts. Part I (this issue) sets the groundwork for understanding what follows in Part II (in our next issue). The question of how much the Polynesians have been affected by climatic change has often been addressed, but seldom with such intensity. Was the downfall of the Ra-

panui culture due to climate or did they destroy their island themselves? Was it a 'little Ice Age', or did they bring it on themselves by clearing the forest and overpopulating the island? This question brings out the beast in many Polynesian scholars. Now, in MacIntyre's articles, we can make an informed decision for ourselves.

Veterinarian Jon Arzt contributes an article dealing with ecological problems on Easter Island: too many animals, too little space, a dearth of adequate feed for the animals, and a poisonous plant that causes sickness and a painful death for horses and cattle. It is not only the animals that suffer; livestock on the island does considerable damage to the archaeological sites of the island. Jon is in the process of raising funds to initiate programs that will help deal with the problems he describes.

Finally, we present a true 'gem' from the days of seafaring: a shipwrecked crew that was lucky enough to reach Rapa Nui in 1913 after their ship was lost at sea. This is a truly astonishing saga of the Pacific, and also provides a glimpse of what life was like on the island in those days.

All of us at the EIF thank you for your loyal support of *Rapa Nui Journal* and hope you will continue to enjoy our publication.

Georgia Lee

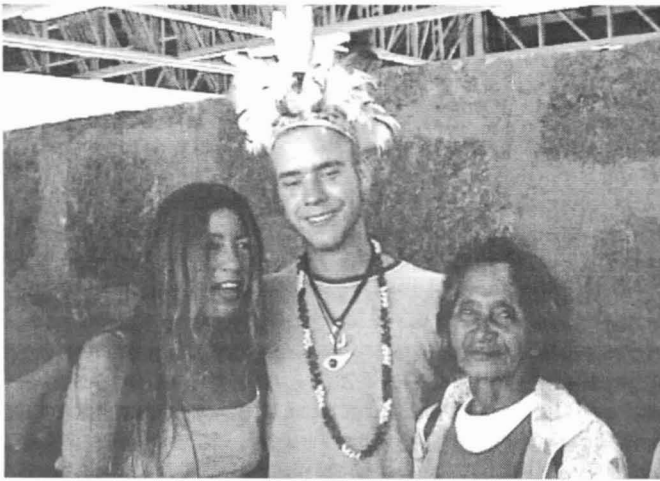
A REPORT FROM RAPA NUI BY GRANT MCCALL

EVERYONE KEEPS ASKING ME: what do you think of the Island?

It has been 15 years (1985-6) since I was last on Rapanui to live and research and there have been changes a plenty. I usually reply just as well, since why else would I return but to study those changes? My first social anthropological research was as a Ph. D. student at the Australian National University, when I arrived on 1 April 1972 to study a culture that no longer existed but had been invented over the previous century. The title of my thesis was to be: "Banana Grove Suburbia", which I rather like still. It would show how a very reduced (110 in 1877) population, mixed with Tahitian and Chilean influences had managed to invent a new culture from those memory ashes



Three ships: A sailing ship and a yacht share Cook's Bay with a luxury ocean liner that brought over a thousand passengers to the island. Photo: G. McCall



The offspring of Rapanui residing around the world return to their island for family and identity. Photo: G. McCall

and become a suburb of the Chilean port of Valparaiso. The thesis had a sophisticated theoretical structure, derived from the most recent (then) research in the Caribbean and the emerging "invention of culture" school of anthropology, which traces its roots to a kind of soft-core Marxism through the Italian theorist Antonio Gramsci. Impressed?

Well my supervisor was and I got the funding from ANU for my research. The only problem with this very neat scheme is that for all its epistemological (still impressed?) elegance, it had nothing to do with Rapanui, either then or now. It quickly became apparent that whilst the Rapanui were an endlessly inventive people, for all their history, they had a strong sense of who they are and where they came from. This strong sense was not so much an ethnological one, say, from the work of Alfred Métraux or Father Sebastián Englert, but it was evocative of Katherine Scoresby Routledge's resonant phrase about the past being in the present on Rapanui.

So, forced by my Rapanui colleagues in research, and my professors Mama Veri, Leon Tuki and José Fati, to name the more prominent ones, I became a kind of anthropological historian, which my publications reflect.

There are some things that have not changed in the thirty



Street rubbish: More businesses and more rubbish: what used to be re-used now is thrown in a bin, to be collected weekly. Photo: G. McCall

years since the Rapanui allowed me to share their lives and this involves the annual cycle of weather, and relations with Chile. Every summer, before Christmas, tourism mounts, LanChile, with its monopoly of the air routes, puts on a couple more Santiago-Rapanui-Santiago runs, the streets are full of new and old faces. In January and February, I saw people that I thought I knew, but they were children and, occasionally, grandchildren of old friends, some of whom I had to visit in the cemetery rather than in their homes.



Clever Moai: A rare sense of humor in Rapanui tourist art. The carving has both object (moai) and creator. Photo: G. McCall

The sound of a jet landing or taking off was (almost) a daily sound, the shops were full of visitors paying, and family. People who had been years living in Europe or the USA presented themselves to surprised family. If I knew them from my first research, we would share our astonishment at the changed church facade, the paved streets and the number of motor vehicles (motor bikes, cars, transport trucks and, recently, about a hundred taxis). These were common commentaries.

Most of the long-time away would have stories about someone taking a taxi to purchase a packet of matches, or calling a cab to go from the market to the Muni (short for Municipalidad, or town council). Less often, people took for granted the nearly 1,000 telephones and the wide spread number of people with Internet connections. Some might have noticed "Mat@riki" (get it?), the first business dedicated to web and e-mail supply, run by Alberto Hotus' sons. My connection here at home runs at 33,000 or so, sometimes faster, which is the best I get in Sydney. Before visiting someone, most people call ahead.

After a while, people notice that whilst one used to have to ask friends and family living elsewhere to bring a cooking pot or some other desired item from overseas—and everything on an island is from overseas, of course - now there is a thriving number of shops with batteries, hair color kits, furniture, fridges and clothes washers and a very complete hardware shop with every screw and fitting that one could possibly want for construction and repair. The "supermarkets" have not only a wide range of tinned and packed products, but frozen pizza and peas. Along side Chilean Pisco, one can purchase imported Scotch.

In fact, from my point of view as a constant pedestrian, the most confusing aspects of Rapanui 2001 is the number of businesses lining the streets and, come to think of it, the number of streets. Where there used to be small town agricultural plots, there are the numerous - one estimate is 800! - subsidized houses supplied by the Chilean government at the rate of about 40 a year at the present time, many of these using asbestos as their main material. A study of housing being carried out by the Muni (town council) and about to be concluded believes that there are over 1,500 houses on the island, with the largest number of these being inhabited by either a single couple or a single person!

And, amongst the occupants of those structures is a continuing number of Chilean public services, for the old and the young, the entrepreneur and the poor. The Catholic Church, since February, has an electronic campanile, a brass unit glittering from the church roof that intones the occasional hour and a few religious songs. But Mormons, evangelicals of a couple of kinds and Seventh Day Adventists have their adherents as well. They not only include the large number of Chileans residing here now, but Rapanui as well who are looking for a new faith. Father Joe, the very with-it Catholic priest, features drums and guitars at some services to try to attract the faithful back to the familiar. But, I was talking about the annual cycle. That is the change from the active and bustling summer to the quieter winter, although real cold has yet to strike. The Chilean Air Force sent a plane February to collect 120 students to continue their studies in Chile. As luck would have it, the US Air Force had a training flight to the island the following week, and they took the ones who missed out on the first flight. Throughout February, those who had arrived started to leave, returning to the other worlds to which they also belong, far away from the *parcela* and *nanue* of Rapanui; distant in concept and kilometres from the *ru'au* and *koro*.

With the coming of March, Lan cut its flights and a tight situation became a tense one with only two flights a week to and from Santiago, the well stocked shops' cargo bumping other less important shipping, such as the post. There have been no postage stamps on the island for about a fortnight.

Tourists continue to arrive, but in decreasing numbers, to make up the over 20,000 a year who come to marvel at the Island's impressive monuments. This number of visitors remains pretty constant in terms of charter and liner visits, incidentally. What changes is the individual visitor on a scheduled flight, owing to the few seats being available.

There are a couple of other signs of the decrease in general activity. Toroko, one of three (with "PDT" and the "Banana Pub") discos on the island, announced in mid-March that they would be open only Friday and Saturday nights, owing to the annual slump in business. A horserace scheduled for mid-March had to be postponed for lack of entrants. And, Orlando Paoa's supply ship, *Orlando II* has just left; cooking gas, heavy building material and more cars being amongst the cargo. A Navy supply ship is about to arrive, with material for the Mulloy Library and other government projects. In my next contribution, I want to take up a topic that has concerned researcher, visitor and Rapanui alike: the current state of the Rapanui language.

Speaking of which, as I write this I am listening to Rafael

Herever's bilingual morning radio program with country and western jostling Rapanui and Tahitian tunes, peppered with his wry comments and official announcements, another change I forgot to mention above, along with TV, video clubs, new hotels.... As Leon used to say, "*Ko te a*": enough for now!

Grant McCall, On island

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION ON THE NET

THE FOUNDATION PROUDLY announces its own official Internet offering, available via your favorite search engine, or by entering www.islandheritage.org. Sure, there are lots of Easter Island websites on the Internet, from the sublime to the puerile, but Net surfers will not be disappointed here. The menu is varied.

"Five Days on Easter Island" lists a superb five-day self-instructed tour of the island, the perfect adventurous (and romantic) itinerary for those fortunate enough to stay for more than a weekend. The large Photo Gallery supplements our suggested tour with further intimate photographs of island life.

Have you looked at our tour and pictures, and now are hooked? Wondering where to stay on the island? At the EIF home page, click on "Island Contacts". You'll find all the information you need to get in touch with dozens of places to stay as well as island tour guides. Listed are phone numbers, email addresses, and even web sites. You won't be left tossing a coin to choose the best-suited to our particular tastes because you will also find hints on how to ask all the right questions before signing up.

You will also find connections to the Easter Island Foundation's bulletin board where you can instantly find information on the latest island news or research. And if you need to, go right ahead and ask the most practical or obscure question. Within a few hours, you will receive a reply from fellow club members, many of whom are experts in a variety of Easter Island studies.

So make a visit: see what else you will find at the Foundation's site—a listing of books available for purchase, links to other worthwhile Easter Island sites, and complete information on the Foundation's goals and projects.

Alan Drake (webmaster@islandheritage.org)

WHERE DO WE WANT THE NEXT RAPA NUI CONFERENCE?

THE HAWAII CONFERENCE was a great success in terms of the number of persons involved and the breadth of topics presented. There was some griping about the boarding school atmosphere and lack of personal liberty but a little discipline never hurt anyone. Even before the proceedings have been printed, we must start to contemplate the venue for the next international conference on Easter Island and the Pacific. Five possibilities come to mind, and each has its advantages and disadvantages.

1) Rapa Nui: The first conference was held on Rapa Nui 20 years ago and it might be fitting to have a 20th anniversary conference there. Conference facilities are virtually non-existent but the governor's meeting rooms may be adequate or we could rent the Hotel O'tai for a week. Airfares would be steep but the tour excursions could bring everyone up to date on the most recent research.

2) Chile: Chile has numerous, less expensive resorts in coastal or beautiful lake settings in the south of Chile that are

just lovely places to get away from it all. They can accommodate small conferences and would have all the services and entertainment that we desire. The advantage is that it is a central location that can be accessed from either Europe, USA or New Zealand for a reasonable airline fare, and it is a relatively close hop to Easter Island for those wishing to take a side trip.

3) New Zealand/Australia: There are many nice blokes in that part of the world and if we could coax one of them to set up a venue at the University of Auckland or at the Australian National University who would not be pleased? Both are centers of Pacific Island research with many notable scholars. If you live in France the trip is a killer but feasible for many others.

4) Rarotonga: This would be a fairly central spot for those coming from many directions in the Pacific. We would need to find a conference venue/hotel that could accommodate a group and someone to run interference for a conference.

5) California: There are several good options, near either San Francisco, or San Diego.

We want to hear about your preferences and suggestions for the next conference. So please write us with the pros and cons about these or any other location that may come to mind. We want the next conference to be the best ever. Of course, we must keep in mind that someone has to organize and run the conference, regardless of its location. Volunteers for this job are required.

Christopher M. Stevenson

THE MET'S UPCOMING EXHIBIT

Rapanuiophiles should be aware of the exhibition currently under preparation which will be held in the Special Exhibitions Gallery of the Michael C. Rockefeller Wing for the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The exhibition is titled *Splendid Isolation: Art of Easter Island* and will open 12 December 2001 and run until July 2002. The exhibition will include works ranging from the Pre-contact period up to the later 19th century. The exhibition will contain an outstanding collection of Easter Island items. Dr Eric Kjellgren is curator for the exhibit and there is to be a full exhibition catalog. Further details will be included in our next issue of RNJ.

WORK IN PROGRESS

NOW BEING SET UP ON THE COMPUTER are three new books to be published by the Foundation. One is the volume of papers presented at the Pacific 2000 Conference held in Hawai'i last August. We have nearly completed editing the papers that were presented, and we expect to have the book ready before the end of the year. Of the 85 papers presented at the Conference, 57 have been submitted for publication. In our next issue, we will have information regarding the book and how to order a copy.

Te Moana Nui. Discovering Lost Isles of the South Pacific by Georgia Lee has been completely set up prior to being printed. *Te Moana Nui* is based upon personal visits made to various Pacific islands, with each chapter devoted to a single island or group of islands. Each island is described: the prehistory, history, shipwrecks, the island today, etc. Beginning in Tahiti, this armchair cruise takes the reader to Ra'ivavae, Rapa Iti, Marotiri, Mangareva, Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno,

Easter Island, Sálas y Gómez, and the Juan Fernandez islands.

Ra'ivavae by Edmundo Edwards is the report of his archaeological work on that island, and is illustrated by 162 drawings and includes the photos taken by Stokes in earlier years. *Ra'ivavae* will be the definitive study of the island.

Still 'pending' is a reworking of the Paymaster Thomson report which will include annotations by Charlie Love and others. We also intend to reprint one of our popular books, *Death of a Moai* by Dr A. E. Charola. The text will be brought up to date by the author. Also pending: the *Guide to Rongorongo* by Alan Drake.

Frank. Morin

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

A scholarship program for Rapanui students will soon become a reality. Joan Kurze, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, announced that the EIF will sponsor one scholarship annually. If we can acquire corporate co-sponsors, we hope to increase this number. Details still to be decided include: announcing the program; making application forms available to candidates; date for submission of applications; forming an evaluation committee; arranging for the delivery of the funds; maintaining EIF contact with the grantee during their studies.

The list of qualifications includes:

- 1) High School graduate, under age 29; 2) a biological Rapanui connection; 3) written reference from teacher or employer that evaluates the applicant's personal character and interest in Rapanui culture; 4) proof of acceptance by an accredited academic institution; 5) leadership qualities; 6) financial need; 7) a 2-page essay describing the individual's interest in furthering his/her education; 8) at conclusion of the grant, the project is to be presented by the grantee to members of the EIF committee.

Joan Seaver Kurze, Chairman, Scholarship Committee



CHILE - ISLA DE PASCUA - EASTER ISLAND - OSTERINSEL

RAPA NUI TRAVEL is your tour operator and travel agent based on Easter Island. If you need information about when to come, where to go and places to stay, contact us.

Our email address is: rntravel@entelchile.net
www.rapanuitravelltda.co.cl